

APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

2013 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant: FoodCorps, Inc.

Application ID: 13AC145074

Program Name: FoodCorps Mississippi

For the purpose of enhancing our programs by improving the quality and quantity of applications to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), we are providing specific feedback regarding the strengths and weaknesses of this application. These comments are not meant to represent a comprehensive assessment; rather the analysis represents those elements that had the greatest bearing on the rating of the application. Please note that this feedback consists of summary comments from more than one reviewer. For this reason, some of the comments may seem to be inconsistent or contradictory. Comments are not representative of all of the information used in the final funding decision.

Reviewers' Summary Comments:

- (+) The applicant details the need in the targeted communities of Mississippi, providing relevant and updated statistics to support the severity of the need for healthier food options and accessibility, as well as increased education in schools to combat the issues of childhood obesity and food insecurity.
- (+) The applicant includes a compelling argument for the severity of the issues, how the issues relate to the poverty experienced in the target community, why lack of opportunity exists, and why it is important to provide support to the communities.
- (+) The applicant describes the areas as economically disadvantaged as the number of children participating in the free lunch and/or reduced lunch program exceeds the national average by more than 50%.
- (+) The applicant clearly describes the community problem as a problem of lack of knowledge and engagement with and access to healthy food. It is described that poverty is a problem that is linked to food insecurity. The applicant also provided the USDA's definition of food deserts of which there are some in Mississippi.
- (+) The applicant provides a thorough explanation of the activities the Members will be engaged in and the level of effort each role would provide.
- (+) The applicant strongly advocates that this much-needed education and hands-on understanding of healthy foods would not be possible for schools to implement, except for the service of AmeriCorps members.
- (+) The applicant clearly describes AmeriCorps member activities and their three components; examples are provided within their description of the components.
- (+) The applicant explains that they will act as change agents within the schools, which is needed because this will increase the health of students at risk for lifetime diet-related disease.

- (+) The applicant explains the number that will be reached with this intervention and that a representative sample will be utilized to analyze the outcome – changes in attitude. The methodology utilized by the applicant is designed by the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and the identified changes are proposed to impact long-term health.
- (+) The applicant clearly anticipates a continual improvement in the children’s attitudes towards fruits and vegetables, as well as the presence/addition of a nutrition curriculum, the integration of school gardens into state standards and the local sourcing/purchasing of foods for the school cafeterias.
- (+) The applicant addresses the relative newness of evidence-based studies for these interventions, coupled with the details of their plan to conduct internal research and national studies on these programs they are implementing. This suggests their understanding and commitment to evidence-informed programs.
- (-) The applicant’s description of the impact it proposes to have on the target population does not provide enough specific information to clearly understand the change their proposed activities will have at the end of the grant-cycle.
- (-) The applicant did not detail on how local networks are relied on to spread FoodCorps.